

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

*Pending claims*

Claims 1 to 270 are pending as filed.

*Claims canceled and added*

In the instant preliminary amendment, claims 2 to 45, 47 to 52, 54, 55, 59, 60, 62, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 72, 74 to 107, 108 to 124, 127 to 129, 132, 134, 136, 139, 141 to 156, 158 to 160, 162 to 168, 170, 172 to 217, 219 to 220, 222 to 224, 226 to 228, 230, 235, 237 to 240, 242 to 261, 263 to 264, 266 to 268 and 270, are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 271 to 273 are added.

Support for the claim amendments

The specification sets forth an extensive description of the invention in the amended claims. For example, support for the amended claims can be found in the claims as filed.

CONCLUSION

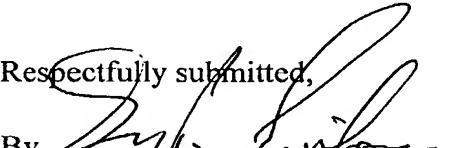
Applicants respectfully aver that the all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 564462003900. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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